

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 11849 151543Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 SSM-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 DHA-02 /071 W
-----069806 160211Z /75

R 151511Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7309
INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
USMISSION SINAI
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 11849

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORS PINT EG
SUBJECT: TAKFIR

REF: (A) CAIRO 11747, (B) CAIRO 2497

1. FIVE ADDITIONAL TAKFIR HIDEOUTS WERE REPORTEDLY DISCOVERED, AND THIRTY MORE SUSPECTS APPREHENDED, JULY 14. AMONG THOSE ARRESTED WAS ANOTHER INDIVIDUAL IMPLICATED IN 1974 TECHNICAL MILITARY COLLEGE ATTACK. SAUDI ARABIAN EMBOFF, KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT EGYPT'S ISLAMIC RIGHT, CLAIMS TOTAL ARRESTED THUS FAR AROUND 1,500. IF TRUE, THIS WOULD INDICATE TAKFIR MORE WIDESPREAD THAN REPORTED OR POLICE NET BEING THROWN WIDE.

2. PRESS SAYS DEFENDANTS WILL BE TRIED UNDER DECREE RATIFIED FOLLOWING JANUARY RIOTS (REF B), WHICH PROVIDES LIFE SENTENCES FOR MEMBERS OF CLANDESTINE ORGANIZATIONS.

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3. SHEIKH OF AL-AZHAR, ON RETURN TO CAIRO, DESCRIBED DHAAHABI ASSASSINATION AS FLAGRANT DEPARTURE FROM ISLAM. HE NOTED THAT PHONEY PROPHETS HAVE APPEARED THROUGHOUT MUSLIM HISTORY.

4. MUSTAFA AMIN, WRITING IN AKHBAR, CALLS ON GOVERNMENT

NOT TO REPEAT EXCESSES OF 1965 CAMPAIGN AGAINST IKHWAN AND, PARTICULARLY, NOT TO ENGAGE IN TORTURE "AS WAS THE CASE IN THE PAST." NO DEFENDANT, HE SAYS, IS TO BE FORCED TO MAKE CONFESSIONS.

5. COMMENT: AMIN, HIMSELF, WAS VICIOUSLY TORTURED DURING NASSER ERA FOR ALLEGED CIA CONNECTIONS. NEVERTHELESS, HIS WARNING AGAINST GOVERNMENT EXCESSES IS IN LINE WITH WHAT WE HAVE HEARD FROM A FEW EMBASSY CONTACTS WHO QUESTION PUBLIC EFFORTS TO DENIGRATE SOCIETY AND ITS LEADERS. FOR EXAMPLE, PROFESSOR OF ISLAMIC PHILOSOPHY AT CAIRO UNIVERSITY TOLD PAO THAT TAKFIR WA HIGRA LABEL WAS INVENTED BY AUTHORITIES AS PERJORATIVE TERM. HE CLAIMED GROUP STYLES ITSELF DA'WA ISLAMIYA--ISLAMIC CALL. ADDITIONALLY, WE ARE TOLD THAT SOCIETY'S PHILOSOPHY IS MORE COHERENT THAN THAT GIVEN BY PRESS.

6. EMBASSY PRESS CONTACTS TELL US PLETHORA OF NEWS ACCOUNTS ARE AT LEAST AS MUCH RESULT OF JOURNALISTIC INITIATIVE AS GOVERNMENT GUIDANCE. STORY CONTAINS ALL INGREDIENTS DEAR TO EGYPTIAN READERS: RELIGION, SUSPENSE, VIOLENCE AND CNALDESTINE GROUPS.
EILTS

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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 15-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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